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SUBJECT: Government of Lithuania request Requests for Generation III Night Vision Devices (NVD) - Country Team Assessment

REF: Vilnius 253 and previous

1. Summary: The GOL recently provided us with a formal request requested that the USG provide Generation III Night Vision Devices (NVDs) for their its troops deploying in support of a Provincial Reconstruction Tteam in Afghanistan and SOF troops preparing to support NATO NATO Reaction Forces -5 and -6 missions. The GOL plans to purchase the NVDs with FMF grant funds. As indicated previously (reftel), we Post strongly supports Lithuania's request for NVDs. End Summary.

A Staunch, Active Ally

2. Lithuania fully supports U.S. policies in the Global War on Terrorism and staunchly supports Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation Iraqi Freedom. Most recently, Lithuania volunteered to lead a NATO Provincial Reconstruction Team in a particularly challenging corner of western Afghanistan, demonstrating reaffirming that its deep commitment to NATO less than a year after accession to the alliance. The Lithuanian Parliament, in September 2004, approved a bill extending its military's participation in Central and South Asia, the Persian Gulf, and the Balkans. Lithuanian Special Operations Forces maintained a nearly continuous presence in Afghanistan from November 2002 to December 2004 and committed to return in 2006. They also recently committed to participate in NATO Reaction Forces -5 and -6. Lithuanians have also served in Kuwait and Iraq since April 2003, and over 100 Lithuanians are currently in Iraq. Since 1994, over 1,300 Lithuanians have participated in Ppeacekeeping operations in the Balkans. Over 100 Lithuanian troops serve there now. Lithuania continues to transform its military from a territorial, defense- oriented army to an expeditionary style force. Lithuania is committed to having a fully deployable battalion combat team with organic air defense assets ready to support NATO operations by 2006.

GOL Request for Night Vision Devices (NVDs)

3. The Lithuanian Ministry of Defense presented Letters of Request (LORs) to the Office of Defense Cooperation for three different types of NVDs, to includinge Generation III Night Vision Devices., (Aall models requested are listed below.) These LORs were forwarded to the Defense Security Cooperation Agency on 19 April 2005. The requested NVDs are required to support Lithuanian troops deploying to Afghanistan to establish a Lithuanian-led Provincial Reconstruction Team (PRT), and Special Forces that will support NATO Reaction Forces -5 and -6 as well as planned follow-on missions in the GWOT. The specific types NVDs requested:

- 10 each, H6V Non-standard Night Vision and Imaging Equipment;
- 22 each, BIM 35 Night Pocketscope; and
- 50 each, AN/PVS -14 Monocular NVD

The intended end users of these NVDs is are the members of the Lithuania's Provincial Reconstruction Team in Afghanistan and the Lithuanian Special Forces unit. The Ministry of Defense requests a total-package approach to include training, logistics, spares, support equipment and maintenance. Lithuania's MOD requests a waiver of any associated non-recurring costs.

COUNTRY TEAM ASSESSMENT

34. Post provides the following information pursuant to DSCA request for Country Team assessment.

1A. THE REASON THE NATION DESIRES THE ARTICLES OR SERVICES:

--The procurement of these NVDs will greatly enhance the capabilities of Lithuanian armed forces scheduled to deploy in support of the Lithuanian- led Provincial Reconstruction Team and NATO Reaction Force -5, and the US-led NATO Reaction Force-6. These NVDs will also directly contribute to the Lithuanian Armed Forces' capability to safely operate with along side its U.S. forces in the GWOT and NATO allies in future operations. Not only will tThe NVDs will increase interoperability within NATO and but also enhance the training and readiness level of Lithuanian combat forces. Acquisition of NVDs will further is an integrated part of Lithuania's military transformation goal of creating Special Forces and conventional units that are fully deployable, sustainable, and interoperable with NATO.

1B. The anticipated reaction of neighboring nations.

--Post does not foresee an adverse aeffect on or reaction by neighboring nations.

1C. The ability of the purchaser to operate, maintain, and support the articles. Training required either in-country or in the US and the possible impact of any in-country US presence that might be required as a result of providing the article.

--Considering the total- package approach, which has been requested, training will be included and should not involve more than 2-3 persons in country more than 10 days. US personnel regularly conduct training events in Lithuania.

1D. The source of financing and the economic impact of the proposed acquisition.

--There is no negative economic impact. Articles will be purchased with a fForeign mMilitary fFinancing grant.

1E. Relevant human rights considerations that might bear on the proposed acquisition:

--There are no human rights considerations that bear on this acquisition.

1F. Whether the US government should approve the transfer of the article and reasons therefore.

--Post strongly recommends approval of Lithuania's request for the procurement of the NVDs. These articles will enhance the combat effectiveness of troops deploying to support a Provincial Reconstruction team and preparing for NRF-5 and NRF-6. These devices will directly contribute to the training and readiness level of the armed forces and its interoperability with NATO forces. Agreeing to this request will also reinforce the strong bilateral relationship between our nations and strengthen Lithuanian resolve to support OEF, OIF, the PRT, and Balkan Peace Support Operations.

Flawless Security and Accountability

15. Lithuania has clearly demonstrated, through six separate End Use Monitoring (EUM) inspections, that it they maintains the required security level and accountability procedures for NVDs. Lithuanian currently has 24 Generation III NVDs purchased with FMF funds in December 2003. These NVDs were already inventoried by the Chief of the Office of Defense CooperationThe Chief of the Office of Defense Cooperation already inventoried these NVDs four times, to include an on-site inventory in Afghanistan. Additionally, Lithuanian received Javelin Command End Use Monitoring Launch Units in July 2004 which2004 that are subject to the same EUM requirements. These 18 units were inventoried twice since delivery, and there were no deficiencies in security and accountability procedures. Lithuania has a flawless track record for NVD security and accountability.

16. This is a fully coordinated country team assessment.

17. POC is LTC McDonough, Chief, Office of Defense Cooperation, jmcDonough@san.osd.mil, 370-5-266-5641